



# Delaware Nutrient Management



## The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission Minutes of the Technology Meeting Held August 09, 2007

### In attendance:

<i>Committee Members Present</i>	<i>Others Present</i>
T. Keen, Chair	K. Bunting-Howarth
R. Baldwin	B. Coleman
K. Blessing	S. Hollenbeck
J. Manchester	
<i>Committee Members Absent</i>	
R. Sterling	
B. Vanderwende	
C. West	
<i>Ex-Officios Present</i>	
W. Rohrer, Jr.	

*This meeting was properly notified and posted as required by law.*

### Call to Order/Welcome:

Chairman T. Keen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

### Approval of Minutes:

**J. Manchester moved to approve April 23, 2007 minutes after minor correction on page 2.**

**R. Baldwin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

B. Rohrer stated that he had spoken with D. Baker, and would like to add to the agenda to Review and Act on the Penalty Matrix (which was before the Rules and Regulations Subcommittee – meeting was cancelled due to no quorum).

### Discussion and Action Items:

*Review and Act on Nutrient Management Plan Reimbursement Standards*

B. Coleman led a discussion on current and proposed standards:

- Currently, a line scale is used. The highest rate is for a farm that consists of less than 500 acres, which is reimbursed at \$1.90 per acre, per year or \$5.70 per acre for a three year lump sum.
- Current rates have been effective since 2004. Rates should be reevaluated, to ensure that they remain current and realistic to costs associated with maintaining a Nutrient Management Plan.
- Now that everyone has been mandated, the proposal is to pay for analytical costs such as a yearly soil sample, pre side-dress soil nitrate tests, etc.
- Many other states don't subsidize updating of the plan at all.

- It is unfair to pay a plan writer the three year amount when he is only pulling samples once.
- Should there be a second per diem structure which accounts for those farms that have 25,000 or more birds, or a set amount of beef cattle? Extra calculations and tests are required for the maintenance of those types of plans.
- T. Keen proposed that B. Rohrer and his staff work out all the details then share the proposal with the Subcommittee and go from there.
- Keep rates as they are for the upcoming crop year, and work out new rates for 2009.
- A draft will be prepared for the Subcommittee by the end of October.

#### *Review and Act on Incentives for Cover Crops and High Phosphorus Soils*

J. Manchester prepared a handout (which is attached to these minutes). He explained in great detail and led a discussion of his findings:

- The best 4 out of 7 crop yield approach should be changed to a 5-year average.
- Studies need to be done exploring the relationship between the phosphorus content of the top 8-inch layer of soil and the P content of the lower layers.
- Starting in 2008, start revising BMPs to recommend lower application rates of phosphorus with high FIV values.
- On very high FIV soils, consider some remediation methods, perhaps adding aluminum or maybe deep plowing to bring lower phosphorus content soils down below up to the top.
- Experiment with the possibility of adding aluminum, bauxite or iron waste to see the effect on high phosphorus soil levels.

After discussion it was agreed that the Subcommittee would ask Dr. Binford to review the assumptions and calculations presented by J. Manchester. Dr. Binford would then report back to the Subcommittee on any suggestions for correction or improvement.

The discussion then turned to cover crops:

- Increase incentives to put in cover crops to take residual nitrogen out of the soil.
- Encourage a lower nitrogen application rate.
- Increase incentives for cover crops when manure has been applied during that year.
- District cost sharing programs are already oversubscribed, new funding sources would have to be identified.
- Cover crops pose special problems for grain farmers who don't harvest original crops until late fall, early winter.
- Most farmers that are true stewards of the land plant cover crops, incentives or not.

**J. Manchester motioned that a recommendation be made to the Full Commission that there be a recommendation coming from the Nutrient Management Commission to DNREC, the Districts, and the Legislature, that we increase the allocation of funds for cover crops to decrease the possibilities of nitrogen pollution.**

**K. Blessing seconded the motion. T. Keen and R. Baldwin abstained from the vote. There were 2 in favor, 2 abstentions, which did not provide a majority for approval.**

B. Rohrer offered to place the NRCS on the Agenda for the next meeting, to provide an annual funding update.

#### *Review and Act on Relocation Program Standards*

- S. Hollenbeck led the discussion:

Two changes to forms are being proposed:

- Poultry companies are being identified on the Relocation Application
- Increase funding cap from \$75,000 to \$125,000 in the Program Guidelines

**J. Manchester moved to increase the Program funding cap from \$75,000 to \$125,000.**

**R. Baldwin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

B. Rohrer stated that the Subcommittee needs to begin to think of establishing goals or priorities for the Relocation Program.

**Public Comments:** NONE

**Next Meeting:** NONE

**Adjournment:** Chairman Keen adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Approved,

Tony Keen, Chair  
Technology Subcommittee

BRR/psd